REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of this application as examined pursuant to the office action of December 4, 2006. In the office action, Claims 1-31 were examined. Claims 32-40 were previously cancelled from consideration in this application. Claims 1-31 have been cancelled by amendment and new Claims 41-58 have been added.

Claims 1-31 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, first and second paragraphs for lack of enablement regarding use of the term "without manual intervention by a network administrator" in the independent claims, and for indefiniteness as allegedly being unclear as to what entity performs what claimed steps. The Applicants respectfully note that two of the four identified independent claims were system claims and not process claims.

Claims 1-31 were also rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,122,664 issued to Boukobza et al. ("Boukobza") in view of US Patent No. 6,502,131 issued to Vaid et al.

The Applicants have canceled the pending claims and have added new claims that clearly and further distinguish the present invention from the cited references. The new claims omit any reference to the omission of manual intervention as an aspect of the invention. For that reason, they respectfully suggest that the 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, rejection has been successfully traversed with the new claims. Further, the Applicants note that the presently pending new claims describe process steps to be performed in which the steps are not specific to a particular entity performing them, as was the form of the process claims as originally filed for which there was no rejection for indefiniteness. The Applicants therefore respectfully suggest that the 35 USC 112, second paragraph, rejection has been successfully traversed with the new claims. Withdrawal of the 35 USC § 112, first and second paragraph, rejections of claims should therefore be withdrawn.

The Applicants note that the new claims are fully supported by the original Specification and therefore add no new subject matter. Specifically, the aspect of "associating a level of trust" found in independent Claim 41 and the claims that depend thereon is described in paragraph (10) of the Specification. The aspect of performing policy modification "independent of any action of the attached function" found in dependent Claims 42 and 55 is described in paragraph (10) of the Specification. The aspect of "changing a static policy to a dynamic policy" or "changing a dynamic policy to a static policy" found in dependent Claims 43 and 44 is described in paragraph

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(29) of the Specification. The aspect of policies relating "to usage policies by the attached function of any network service and not solely ingress and egress to and from the network system by the attached function" found in dependent Claim 45 is described in paragraph (32) of the Specification. The aspect of modifying for the attached function one or more of the static and dynamic policies "per flow" and "per session" found in dependent Claims 46 and 47 is described in paragraph (39) of the Specification. The aspect of "establishing rules of hierarchy for saved set and modified policies" found in dependent Claim 49, and independent Claim 54 and the claims that depend thereon, is described in paragraph (28) of the Specification. The aspect of "overriding saved set and modified policies stored on the centrally located network infrastructure device with saved set and modified policies stored on the local network infrastructure device" found in dependent Claims 51 and 57 is described in paragraph (28) of the Specification. Remaining aspects of the present invention described by new Claims 41-59 were presented with the original claims and are therefore fully supported.

The present invention as described in the presently pending new Claims 41-58 clearly distinguish the present invention over the cited references. Nowhere is it taught or described in any of the references a method of controlling the usage by an attached function of network services associated with a network system that includes the steps of: 1) associating a level of trust with the information about the attached function; 2) querying whether a stored policy history exists for the attached function; and 3) if the stored policy history exists for the attached function, establishing for the attached function one or more static and dynamic policies for network services usage based on the stored policy history, all as described by new independent Claim 41. Further, nowhere is it taught or described in any of the references a method of controlling the usage by an attached function of network services associated with a network system that includes the step of establishing rules of hierarchy for saved set and modified policies, as described by new independent Claim 54. For these reasons, the Applicants respectfully suggest that the present invention described by the new claims is patentable.

The 35 USC § 103(a) Rejection

Previously pending Claims 1-31 were rejected in the December 4, 2006, office action as being unpatentable over Boukobza in view of Vaid. New Claims 41-58 are currently pending. It is stated in the office action, among other things, that Boukobza teaches setting and modifying

static and dynamic policies. Column 2, lines 21-36 and column 3, line 60 to column 4, line 5, are cited for this position. However, a careful review of these passages and the remainder of the text of the Boukobza reference clearly indicate that static and dynamic parameters are contemplated, not policies. Boukobza does not use the word "policy" (or "policies") at all, contrary to the assertion made in the office action. Instead, Boukobza describes parameters as values or conditions to be monitored for, whether they are static or dynamic parameters. These parameters correspond to conditions of operation--they are not policies

Applicants respectfully note that polices are the permissions granted to attached functions for usage of network services. For example, the policy of allowing access to engineering applications may be granted to one attached function, while another attached function may be permitted access to accounting applications through a different policy. The present invention changes policies for an attached function based on triggers. Those triggers may be the result of particular actions of an attached function, the actions of other attached functions, or other conditions of operation of the network infrastructure. The independent claims of the present invention are directed to policy changes. Boukobza is directed to monitoring for triggers. Boukobza is not directed to changes based upon the detection of triggers, and instead teaches away from such a characteristic. Specifically, Boukobza states in the abstract and column 2, lines 36-38, thereof calls for "possibly initiating actions associated with these tested conditions, which parameters, conditions and actions are modifiable by the user of the management node.

The December 4, 2006, office action further alleges that a number of features of the present invention described in dependent claims are described by Boukobza. The Applicants respectfully disagree. First, column 18, lines 49-53, of Boukobza do not describe a step of saving set and modified policies. Policies are not mentioned anywhere in that reference. Second, column 22, lines 24-27, of Boukobza do not describe a step of querying whether a policy history exists for an attached function. Policies and their relationships to attached functions and making queries about them are not mentioned anywhere in that reference. Third, column 30, lines 58-62, of Boukobza do not describe caching some or all policy histories in a network system device. The word "cache" is at that location of the reference, but it has nothing to do with caching at a network device anything to do with policies and histories related thereto. Fourth, column 18, lines, 49-53 of Boukobza do not describe policies, saving policies, or evaluating whether a policy history includes any static policies that may be set for an attached

function. Fifth, the abstract of Boukobza does not state, infer, or in any way mention a condition in which the only static policy is that there are only dynamic policies. The Boukobza abstract describes parameters, not policies. The Boukobza abstract describes static and dynamic parameters, but says nothing about a static policy being that all policies are dynamic.
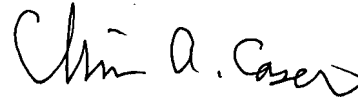
In the December 4, 2006, office action, the examiner notes that Boukobza fails to teach modifying directly by one or more devices of the network infrastructure without manual intervention by a network administrator the policies for the attached function based upon the detection of triggers. The office action relies upon the Vaid reference for that purpose. The Applicants respectfully note that the new pending claims do not include the limitation regarding policy change without manual intervention as the Vaid reference allegedly teaches. In view of the new claim set, the Applicants respectfully suggest that the Vaid reference is no longer applicable.

The present invention is directed to policy modifications made for attached functions based on monitored triggers. Information about the attached function must have an associated level of trust prior to permitting access to the services of the network system. Further, the present invention is directed to policy modifications made for attached functions based on triggers wherein set and modified policies are saved and rules of hierarchy are established for those saved policies. In addition to its failure to describe any aspects of policies, Boukobza fails to describe associating levels of trust and it fails to describe rules of hierarchy for saved policies. In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments presented herein, the Applicants respectfully suggest that the 35 USC § 103(a) rejection of the claims has been successfully traversed. Withdrawal of that rejection is therefore requested.
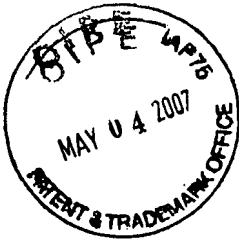
CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully suggest that the amendments made to the claims and the arguments presented herein fully address the rejections under 35 USC §§ 112 and 103(a) have been successfully traversed by entry of new Claims 41-58. Allowance of pending Claims 41-58 is therefore requested. The Applicants note that by this amendment, 31 claims in total have been canceled and 18 have been added, two of which are independent. Therefore, no additional filing fee is required.
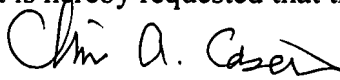
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service using the Express Mail Service in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 4, 2007, Express Mail label no. $\underline{EB0483417 15US}$. It is hereby requested that this filing be granted a filing date of May 4, 2007.

Chris A. Caseiro